STATE SENATOR - HANSEN CLARKE - 1ST DISTRICT

Clarke Press Release

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-7346 • Fax: 517-373-5338 E-mail: senhclarke@senate.michigan.gov • www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/SD01

Tuesday, March 18, 2003



CONTACT: State Sen. Hansen Clarke

PHONE: 517/373-7346

SEN. CLARKE OPPOSES SR 37 FOR EXPLOITING U.S. TROOPS FOR PARTISAN ADVANTAGE

(Lansing) State Sen. Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit) blasted Michigan Senate Republicans today for introducing Senate Resolution 37 which called for a blanket endorsement of the Bush Administration's Iraq strategy as part of a resolution offering moral support for U.S. troops. Sen. Clarke accused Senate Republicans, who demanded a roll call vote on the resolution, of using concern for U.S. troops for partisan advantage. There was already a resolution drafted, Senate Resolution 38, which would have offered support for U.S. troops without any sort of blanket endorsement of the Bush Administration's foreign policy.

"This was clearly done so that Senate Republicans can mislead the public into thinking that some Senators oppose our troops," said Sen. Clarke. "It's nothing more than jingoistic nonsense to suggest that anyone who has a differing foreign policy strategy to that of the current Administration is somehow not supporting our troops."



Sen. Clarke, like millions of other Americans, has been concerned that the Bush Administration is not exhausting every diplomatic solution before resorting to war. He has also criticized the Bush Administration for undermining U.S. credibility around the world by making assertions regarding Iraq's alleged involvement with the events of September 11 that can not be substantiated.

"This Administration has done such a poor job of outlining the rationale for war that most of my constituents still aren't sure why this conflict is even necessary," said Sen. Clarke.

"More of my constituents tell me they are convinced this war is about oil than about Al Qaeda."

Sen. Clarke has been outspoken in calling for a more multilateral approach to the Iraqi crisis. He has encouraged the Bush Administration to work with, rather than against, international institutions like the U.N., NATO, and European Union to form an international consensus on Iraq.

"The current Administration's foreign policy strategy calls for the dismantling of International relationships that this nation has spent decades building," said Sen. Clarke. "Support for such a radical new foreign policy strategy should be debated on its own merits and not intertwined with a resolution calling for support for the troops."

Sen. Clarke voted in support of Senate Resolution 38 which offered support for U.S. troops without taking a position on the Bush Administration's foreign policy.